(b) All required tests were carried out.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All actions will be taken as recommended by the Board of Inquiry.

Service tenure of Short Service Commissioned officers

†3089. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenure of service for Short Service Commissioned officers of Air Force has been fixed to fourteen years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The term of engagement for the Short Service Commissioned (SSC) officers of the Indian Air Force, to be inducted from the course commencing in January 2006 onwards, has been fixed at 10 years, extendable to 14 years. This decision has been taken in order to bring uniformity between the three Armed Forces.

Renewal of Indo-Russian Defence Programme

3090. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia have agreed to renew defence programme for another 10 years from 2010;

(b) if so, any discussion has been held with the Russian authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There exists an Agreement signed on 21.12.1998 between India and Russia on the Long Term Programme of Military and Technical Cooperation for the period upto the year 2010. There exists an institutional mechanism for discussion on defence cooperation with the Russian

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.